

YOUNG WORKER

Vol. 2

March-1940

No. 1

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WHAT IS SOCIALISM ?

The Pacifist Anti-War Congress

Analysis of the Y.C.A.W. Program

Y.W.L. Resolution on Y.C.A.W.

YOUTH UNDER CAPITALISM

Anti-War Manifesto

And 5 Other Articles

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Y O U N G W O R K E R

Monthly organ of the

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE *

1904 W. Division Street

Chicago, Ill.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES -- 5¢ per copy -- 50¢ per year

Send all communications to -- I. JENSEN, Editor

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NEWS FLASH

BOSTON reports to the Young Workers League the formation of a new crack unit in that city. Swell work Boston! This was accomplished by the work of one of our comrades who was on his toes and alert. He writes that the paper the "YOUNG WORKER" was invaluable as an organizer. How about the rest of our units and comrades? We feel sure the same can be repeated over the country if we put our energy and time into it. Building the Young Workers League is the best way to combat bosses war plans.

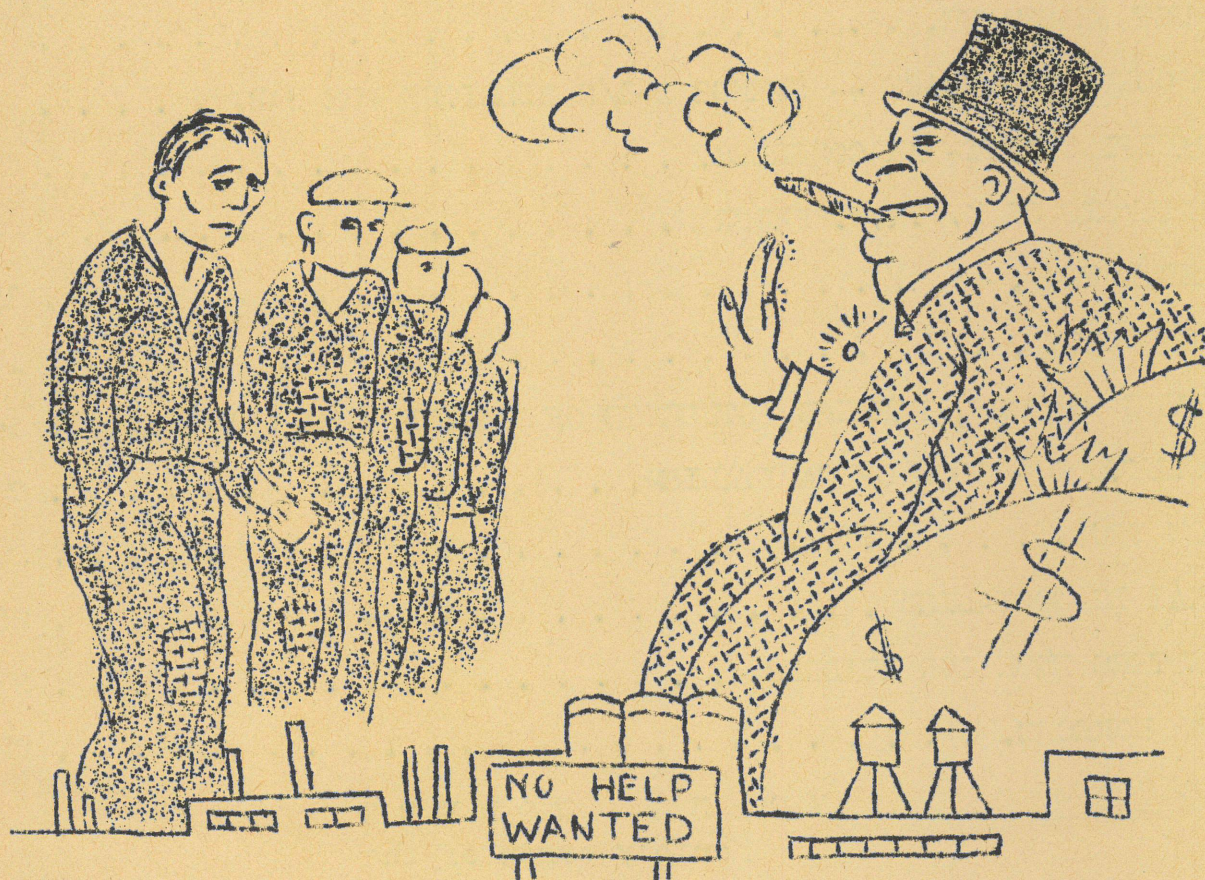
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MUST WE STARVE IN A WORLD OF PLENTY

WE MUST ORGANIZE TO OVERTHROW THIS BOSS
(ROBBER) SYSTEM WHERE MILLIONS STARVE WHILE
ONLY A HANDFUL HAVE EVERYTHING. WE MUST
BUILD A WORKERS' WORLD WHERE STARVATION AND
WANT WILL BE NO MORE.

*WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS
AND A WORLD TO GAIN.*

ROOSEVELT'S "PEACE" SPENDS 2½ BILLIONS FOR WAR

Regular Army, 1940	\$548,995,812
Regular Navy, 1940	773,049,711
Army Expansion	361,000,000
Navy Expansion	63,000,000
Navy Public Works, 1940	55,000,000
Modernization of battleships	10,000,000
New Weapons	110,000,000
Arsenal Tools	6,000,000
Seacost Defense	8,000,000
Strategic materials	100,000,000
Aviation reserch	1,890,000 10,000,000 A
Pilot Training	4,000,000
Coast Guard	25,000,000
Expanded Locks at Panama	277,000,000 B
Merchant Marine	100,000,000 235,000,000 A

\$2,687,935,523.

- - - Business Week, August 19, 1939

A - Contract authorization.

B - Recommended but not yet appropriated.

PACIFIST ANTI-WAR CONGRESS

Pacifists say that wars are terribly bloody and unnecessary. Therefore they are against all wars. They say that if you reason with people you can stop them from wars and bloodshed. Militarism, according to them leads to wars, therefore they are against all forms of militarism. "Gosh, if men would only know the waste, horror, and destruction of war, they would use other means of settling disputes." This is their theory.

Well, the Young Workers League had the delightful (?) fortune to attend the Youth Congress Against War -- December 27 to 31, 1939. Here came the worst collection of big-mouth pacifists we have ever seen. The congress was held at the University of Chicago. These pacifists were sent as delegates from Church and pacifist groups from different cities throughout the East. Some of the groups that sent their best people to this conference were the Epworth League, New America, Union Now, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Student Peace Service, Young Peoples Socialist League, War Resisters League, National Council of Methodist Youth, Washington University Peace Club and Cooperative Commonwealth.

In order to send a delegate you had to agree that Russia was no different from a Fascist country. The Y.W.L. therefore had no delegate but a couple of Y.W.L.er's went in as observers.

The staunchest pacifists of them all were the Young Socialists, whose leader, Al Hamilton, displayed his middle-class ideology to the point of disgust. The program adopted, although ridiculously hopeless, at least showed one thing -- the natural opposition of the American youth to war and militarism. It declares that the pacifists will refuse to support the U.S. government in any war it may undertake, endorses student strikes against war, is against the R.O.T.C., and is for repealing of mobilization plans. The Conference will attempt to carry out its plans by completely reformist and "legal" methods only. It is going to "take the question of war and peace into its own hands" by having the U.S. government pass a war referendum amendment. It is against war for religious and pacifist reasons only. It does not blame the capitalist system as responsible for war nor calls for a struggle against conscription.

During the formation of the program an amendment was introduced condemning Socialism. One socialist speaker raised mild objection, but said since the issue today is no longer Socialism, all socialists will support it. This shows how insincere the socialist pacifists are.

The conference, because it refused to discuss the class struggle in relation to war, is doomed to an ignoble defeat and death. SO it must be with anybody who thinks he can abolish wars under this capi-

Continued on page 21

ANALYSIS OF THE Y. C. A. W. PROGRAM

The correct policy for the struggle against war is no longer a mere academic question that can be discussed at leisure. For the second world war, which revolutionists have long predicted as a result of the contradictions of the profit system, is now raging in Europe. It is only a matter of time until the so-called "neutrals" -- Japan, Italy AND THE UNITED STATES will become involved. In the whole past period since the last war, many organizations developed and many proposals were made to prevent war. On a world scale, it must now be admitted that all of these have crumbled in the dust of the roaring guns. It is no longer a question of theory that can be argued pro and con that such things as disarmament conferences, trade treaties, mutual assistance pacts, non-aggression pacts, etc., etc. can prevent war. THE WAR RAGES and in the course of its destruction, it tears to shreds, as we have already done theoretically, all these theories and plans for peace. Those of us who have a consistent record of showing that such proposals as the above could not stop war can now state that actual developments have corroborated our position.

In this light, that the actual war gives the test to all the plans to prevent war, we approach the Program of the Y.C.A.W. It is our opinion that the affiliated organizations and the thousands of youth who support the Y.C.A.W. are actuated by the most sincere desires to prevent war. But sincerity and determination, in themselves, do not guarantee success. In the same sense that all the plans of the leading statesmen and governments for "peace" have been converted into justifications for war, in this same sense we consider that the Program of the Y.C.A.W. CANNOT prevent war and will inevitably lead its followers into the cannon's mouth.

THE BASIC ERROR

What is the chief error of the Y.C.A.W. Program? It is the same error in content of that of all the disarmament schemes, trade treaty proposals, arbitration, League of Nations, etc., etc. of the statesmen and governments which or now engaged, or will soon be engaged, in the second world bloodbath. It is the error that WAR CAN BE PREVENTED UNDER CAPITALISM. The above enumerated proposals did not stop the war because they were the tools and weapons of the various capitalist powers; in the last analysis, they were a

form of the imperialist rivalry that has now reached the open military stage. The Program of the Y.C.A.W. shows that its members and affiliated organizations have unfortunately FAILED TO LEARN THE LESSONS of the past twenty years with all its "peace" proposals --- those grandiloquent schemes which now lie in the New Flanders Field. The Eight-Point Program of the Y.C.A.W. has as its AXIS the fatal error that the imperialist governments will disarm, that they will stop protecting their imperialist investments and interests abroad, that they can and will solve their economic and social contradictions. For years we have pointed out theoretically that this was impossible. Our theories are now proved by that inevitable son of capitalism -- the second world imperialist war.

OPPOSITION (?) TO ALL WAR

Let us proceed to take up the Program point by point. But first let us state that even the name of the Y.C.A.W. shows its false program. The name itself, as well as the program, is pacifist in character. Pacifists are opposed to ALL wars: on the one hand they fail to recognize that the present imperialist war flows from the contradictions of the capitalist system; their opposition is non-scientific and purely humanitarian; on the other hand they fail to recognize that the inevitable revolts of the millions of colonial peoples in India, Africa, China, Latin and South America, etc. are a direct result of these contradictions of capitalism, that these colonial revolts against imperialist oppression are progressive, AND MUST BE SUPPORTED. The failure to recognize the CAUSE of imperialist war becomes a two-fold error in the opposition to PROGRESSIVE WARS for national liberation, and the failure to support these. Similarly, and in a more important sense, this blind opposition without a scientific understanding of the CAUSE of imperialist war, leads to opposition to PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONS of the exploited masses to tear to the ground the decayed capitalist system with its wars, unemployment, misery and exploitation for the vast millions of workers and oppressed masses. We summarize: The very name of the Y.C.A.W. shows that opposition to ALL wars means: (1) a failure to recognize the CAUSE of the imperialist war (2) a failure to support progressive colonial struggles against capitalism (3) a failure to support proletarian revolutions against capitalism.

I -- CAN THERE BE IMPERIALISM WITHOUT MILITARIZATION?

The objective of Point I is a halt to the militarization of the United States. We consider this about as correct and practical as telling John Dillinger or some other criminal to stop carrying a gun when he robs a bank. The pacifists in England, France, Germany, etc., who have spoken similar words for years, now reap their rewards in such a "halting of militarization" by becoming the

cannon fodder of this militarization. Evidently the leaders of the Y.C.A.W. seem to think that the U.S. Government will pay more attention to their plea that did the governments of France, Germany, Britain, Poland, etc. It is about time that those who make such sincere but false pleas look across the ocean and recognize that capitalist governments arm and increase their arming, not because some "want" war and others don't, but because ALL GOVERNMENTS are the tools of the exploiters, ALL GOVERNMENTS are the agencies for the maintenance of the brutal oppression of the colonial empires, ALL GOVERNMENTS are the tools of the capitalists to maintain and to extend their exploiters system by plunder and pillage and now, by armed struggle for the FOURTH imperialist redivision of the world. The economic needs of the American capitalist class differ from those of her European rivals only in that her needs are GREATER. The United States must conquer the world, must achieve the political hegemony in keeping with her vast economic empire, influence and interest. That is why, instead of halting militarization, "I-want-peace" Roosevelt spends over 2 1/2 BILLIONS of dollars in 1939 for war purposes. That is why the reissuance of the futile cry of "halt" is so much grist in the mill of the Government and its Wall Street imperialist masters.

II -- CAN THERE BE IMPERIALISM WITHOUT THE USE OF MILITARIZATION?

Point II, like the first point, fails to recognize that militarization and the armies in the colonies, China, etc. are just as natural to American Imperialism as water on a duck's back. Point II recognizes that these armed forces are "to preserve the status quo", and we may add, the extension of the imperialist interests of Wall Street. To call for the withdrawing of the armed forces means to ask the American capitalists to abandon a source of their very existence -- the exploitation of millions of colonial peoples; it is about as practical as asking a lion to live without meat. But, let us assume for a moment, that this was done for TACTICAL reasons by the imperialists. This would not prevent war. Britain has withdrawn her troops from Tientsin in order to use them in Europe; but the war still rages and the oppression and exploitation of the Chinese masses continues with just as much brutality. The capitalists maintain and move troops for the purpose of maintaining and extending their imperialist interests. The tacit recognition of the Y.C.A.W. leaders that this is true does not prevent them from asking the leopard to change its spots.

III -- THE RIGHT TO VOTE TO DIE IN THE SERVICE OF IMPERIALISM

The idea of a referendum on whether or not to go to war is one of the most dangerous illusions yet proposed. Its effect, like that of disarmament, League of Nations, etc., etc. will be --- WAR. It contains a number of errors. First, just as the first two

points fail to recognize that the government is a tool of the exploiters, so this point sows the idea -- myth of myths -- that the government is controlled by the people. In essence all elections are a fraud. The workers in capitalist countries have never gained any important concessions through the vote. All gains that the workers have made both politically and socially have been as a result of their STRUGGLES, have been sops thrown to them by the bosses who were afraid that the workers would TAKE more. The right to vote, the right to organize, picket, strike, etc. "social security", etc.--- all are direct results of the struggles of the workers, which were "legalized" in order to prevent these struggles from deepening. But this does not in any way mean that the people control the government. As has been pointed out above, it is a tool and faithful servant of the small minority of capitalist exploiters. When these latter decide that their entrance into the war is necessary the government, the press, the radio and all media of propaganda will beat the drum and into the war they will drag us. But, let us assume, that they would favor the referendum; this is not theoretically excluded. Because they control all the media of propaganda and because, behind this control and the myth of their "democracy", they have the armed forces, they can always -- and history shows this to be true -- line up the vast majority, either by words or by the threat and use of force, for the war. Under such circumstances, if there were a referendum, the vote would be FOR war. This would place the Y.C.A.W. and others who support the referendum in the position of being the MOST ARDENT ADVOCATES OF WAR because it would be "democratically" decided. In other words, you would be beating the war drums the loudest because you had the "RIGHT" to vote. Under either variant, and the first is most likely, the referendum is a deadly illusion that plays into the hands of the imperialist war-makers.

IV -- POLICE FORCE, MILITARY ALLIANCES THE WEAPONS OF IMPERIALISM

This point has already been dealt with above. The police force policy is utilized for the protection of the interests of the American Imperialists from the ambitions of rival imperialist powers. Similarly, the U.S. will consummate military alliances with other powers for the purpose of advancing these interests. To expect the government to follow any other course is to expect it to negate its purpose and function.

V -- ORGANIZATION FOR WAR

Again the Y.C.A.W. sees the EFFECTS AND PLANS of the exploiters government, but refuses to recognize the CAUSE, and attempts to reform it. Capitalism has "elevated" war to a conflict in which the nations pit all their resources, both material and human, against each other. Victory will not be determined by the size of the armies

or by brilliant military strategy, but by the degree to which the industrial apparatus is co-ordinated and harnessed to the war machine, M Day plans are not, therefore, "extraordinary" measures that will be taken but are an expression of the real nature of the war in a highly developed capitalist economy. To demand of the government that it scrap these planned dictatorial decrees is to expect American Imperialism to enter the war unarmed, is to pray for the repentance of the criminal even as he prepares to rob another bank with a new and better machine gun, instead of fighting to eliminate him and his crimes from society.

VI -- STUDENT STRIKE AGAINST WAR -- AN AUXILIARY TO WORKING CLASS ACTION

This point is of extreme importance. In the last analysis, a strike against war can be an effective weapon only when it is transformed into a revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system and its war. In such a struggle, the students can only play a secondary role. We say this not because we wish to minimize their role, but because of their actual social relationship and nature: (1) The students are a heterogeneous group, representing all classes and strata in society, and consequently having the corresponding different outlook on various problems. (2) They are divorced from the productive forces, are not directly connected with the economic life of society, and hence cannot and do not play a DECISIVE role. As a group, therefore, they can only play a subordinate role in the struggle against war; for this struggle, as it matures, must have at its head the workers of mine, mill and factory, led by the revolutionary Marxist organization.

The annual student strikes are a step in this direction provided they have as their axis co-operation with the trade union and unemployed organizations, and have as their POLITICAL axis a CORRECT anti-war position, and not the jumbled pleas to the capitalist government which is characteristic of the Y.C.A.W. Program and dooms it to failure. On the question of the Oxford Oath, we have already dealt with the false nature of pacifism lumping all wars together, consequently being unable to fight against the bosses' wars and condemning the workers and colonial toilers' wars against the bosses. The refusal to support the American capitalist class and its government into the entry of the war must be transformed into a struggle in unity with the working class and under its leadership, against the capitalist class and its decayed system. The main enemy of the workers, the farmers, the middle class, the youth is not somewhere across the ocean but right here at home, and the non-support of this main enemy must become a revolutionary struggle to end their domination of society.

VII -- THE UTOPIAN DREAM OF PEACE AND PLENTY UNDER CAPITALISM

The fact that the imperialist war is a direct result of capitalism, that it is an attempt of the capitalists to "solve" the problems of their contracting markets, of their system of private appropriation which strangles and fetters the means of production -- this basic fact is again negated by Point 7 which want to "end" unemployment, misery, as well as war. The writers of the Program must live in a dream world and believe that capitalism is still in its infant stage of expansion, where, under the pressure of the working class, it was forced, and was able to, grant economic concessions. But today, in the DECAY stage, this is no longer possible; leading economists are agreed that EVEN WITH THE WAR BOOM there will remain about 13 million unemployed should be ample proof that this is so. But the Y.C.A.W. leaders go blithely on their way toward Utopia forgetful that the much-vaunted high standard of living in this country has become a fiction, forgetful that the unemployment, hunger and misery, as well as the war, are direct evidence of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system. The social reforms set forth in Point 7 are a dangerous fiction because they foster the belief that the capitalist system can still be patched up. What the best brains of the capitalist class have not been able to do, the "anti-war" leaders of the Y.C.A.W. will attempt. The result of their efforts will be that the entry of the U.S. into the imperialist war will find them in the camp of the bugle blowers and recruiting sergeants still trying to patch up the profit system. It is the task of those who recognize that unemployment and hunger must be ended, those who are striving for a better social order, to state unequivocally that economic betterment for the masses can only be achieved by the overthrow of the capitalist system. The fostering of such social reforms as in Point 7 disarms the working class and paves the way for fascism. The experiences in Germany with its Social-Democratic governments, and in Spain with the Peoples Front with all its "reforms" are convincing proof that, in the period of the decay of capitalism, such "reform" movements inevitably lead to fascism.

VIII -- CAN THE IMPERIALIST ROBBERS AND KILLERS BE REFORMED?

Point 8 is a masterpiece of political confusion, a "worthy" summary of the entire Program. It speaks of internationalism based on "peace and justice". To use these terms in reference to the capitalist system is to live in a dream world. The very existence of capitalism means national-chauvinism and war -- class war at home and imperialist war abroad -- means brutal oppression of millions of colonial toilers, means dictatorial rule and exploitation of the workers in the various countries. This Point further deals with economic readjustment, to pave the way for a "warless world". How

many more world bloodbaths must the imperialists launch before the Y.C.A.W. leaders recognize that proposals for "elimination of restrictions on trade", "world wide disarmament", etc., etc. are only grist in the mill of the war-makers??? These proposals of Point 8 ask the capitalist system to turn itself inside out, to transform itself from sinner into saint. Such political confusion and reformist proposals disarm the workers and youth, and serve to simplify the tasks of the fascists who demagogically state that the system is no good.

Internationalism will only be possible when national boundaries of the capitalist powers are effaced. Peace will only be realized when class differences are eliminated. Security will only be possible when the profit system is destroyed and a Workers Council Government based on Workers Control of Production for Use is established.

FOR A NEW REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES

In summary --- The struggle against imperialist war is in reality a struggle against the capitalist system itself. The tasks that we have enumerated will not be fulfilled by wishful thinking or by pipe dream pacifism. In order to effectively struggle against imperialist war and capitalism, there must be built a powerful revolutionary Marxian organization on the principles of Marxism. As yet such a party does not exist in this country; the Revolutionary Workers League of the United States and its youth group, the Young Workers League, are the embryo forms striving to build such a revolutionary Marxian Party. In order to elevate the struggle to a world scale there must be created a New Communist (4th) International. Both the Second and Third Internationals are bankrupt and are OPEN agents of the imperialists. The Trotskyite "Fourth International" is a house of cards with its centrist program. The Provisional INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION, to which the Revolutionary Workers League is affiliated, presenting a revolutionary Marxian program including the revolutionary position against war, is the hope and base for the creation of this New Communist (4th) International.

Only such a revolutionary Marxian organization, can give leadership to the struggle to thwart the plans of the war-making imperialists by ending their domination of society. All other anti-war groups inevitably topple over at the first imperialist gust. By the above analysis we think this is true of the Y.C.A.W. with its reformist, pacifist Program of "please, Mr. Capitalist, won't you be good" struggle against (?) war; with its reformist proposals which the now raging imperialist war shows in life to be false and futile. The experiences of the pacifist movement and such proposals

as now made by the Y.C.A.W., which were previously made by similar groups in 1914 and now in 1939 in Europe, should be a warning that to tread the same road can only lead to the front line trenches. Before it is too late the young workers of America must join with the forces of the Young Workers League and the Revolutionary Workers League to build a revolutionary Marxist Party and a New Communist (4th) International in the struggle against imperialist war, in the struggle for the overthrow of its breeder, the capitalist system, in the struggle to build a Workers Council Government based on Workers Control of Production for Use.

* * * * *

In our material to the conference we have a resolution that deals concretely with the question of how to fight the imperialist war. Support this resolution when it is presented for discussion and vote.

* * * * *

On the extremely vital question of the role of the Soviet Union as a warped Workers State under the counter-revolutionary leadership of Stalinism, we refer you to the YOUNG WORKER, vol. I, #5, page 1, and also to the INTERNATIONAL NEWS, prgan of the Provisional INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION, vol. I, #3.

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A RESOLUTION

ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR

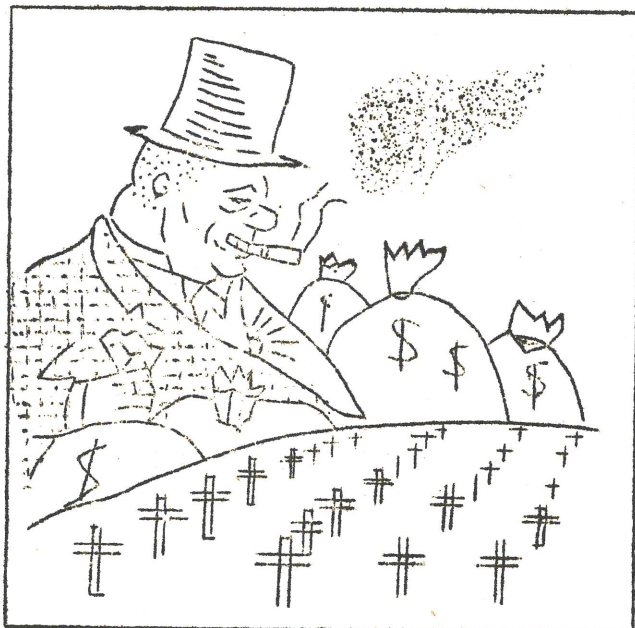
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The working class of this country has no quarrel with the oppressed masses of any **other** country. They can never be our enemies, we look upon them as comrades, facing the same problems that we face, exploited in the same manner as we are exploited. Any war that the American Imperialists become involved in has for its object the defense and furthering of the profit system. Such a war can never be our war. In the event that the United States becomes involved in a war we will refuse to shoot our comrades on the other side of the trenches, instead we will fraternize with these workers in an attempt to convince them of the fact that we will have no part in the struggle of the rival imperialists. Our main task will not be to gain a victory over the enemy country, but **TO WORK FOR THE DEFEAT OF OUR OWN CAPITALIST CLASS BY REVOLUTIONARY MEANS**, to turn the imperialist war into a war against our own capitalist class, into civil war.

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE
1904 Division Street
Chicago, Illinois

To be presented to the Resolutions Committee; Support this
resolution in the sessions of the Conference.

RED FEAST



By RALPH CHAPLIN

Go fight, you fools! Tear up the
earth with strife
And spill each other's guts upon
the field;
Serve unto death the men you
served in life
So that their wide dominions may
not yield.

Stand by the flag -- the lie that
still allures;
Lay down your lives for land you
do not own,
And give unto a war that is not
yours
Your gory tithe of mangled flesh
and bone.

But whether in the fray to fall or kill
You must not pause to question why nor where.
You see the tiny crosses on that hill?
It took all those to make one millionaire.

It was for him the seas of blood were shed
That fields were razed and cities lit the sky;
That he might come to chortle O'er the dead--
The condor Thing for whom the millions die!

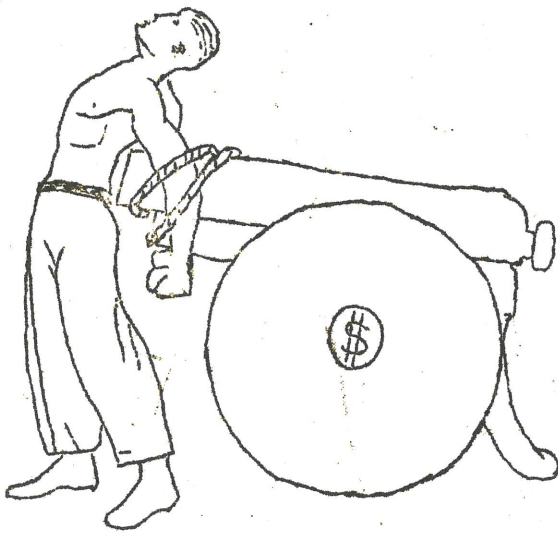
The bugle screams, the cannons cease to roar.
"Enough! enough! God give us peace again."
The rats, the maggots and the Lords of War
Are fat to bursting from their meal of men.

So stagger back, you stupid dupes who've "won",
Back to your stricken towns to toil anew,
For there your dismal tasks are still undone
And grim Starvation gropes again for you.

What matters now your flag, your race, the skill
of scattered legions -- what has been the gain?
Once more beneath the lash you must distil
Your lives to glut a glory wrought of pain.

Continued on Page 24

YOUNG WORKERS, STUDENTS FARMERS OF AMERICA ()



The drums of war are beating again. The Youth of Europe have been regimented, their liberties destroyed, their lives imperiled. The tramp of marching feet is destroying their hopes for peace and existence. They're in the army now, forced to fight a war which is not of their own making, a war from which they will derive no benefit, a war which will bring them only death and destruction.

The time is growing shorter till the entire world will be openly fighting in another bloodbath. Will we be safe from it here in America? Absolutely not! For some time now the American government has been busy building a mighty navy and air fleet, destined to become the largest in the world. Billions of dollars are being spent for militarism. Her existing skeleton army has been adding flesh, recruiting every day in every section. The blue-prints have been completed for converting every factory and shop into munitions, arms, and chemical plants. In addition, the Industrial Mobilization Bill, the M-DAY plans will conscript every available healthy youth into the army and a veritable dictatorship is to be established.

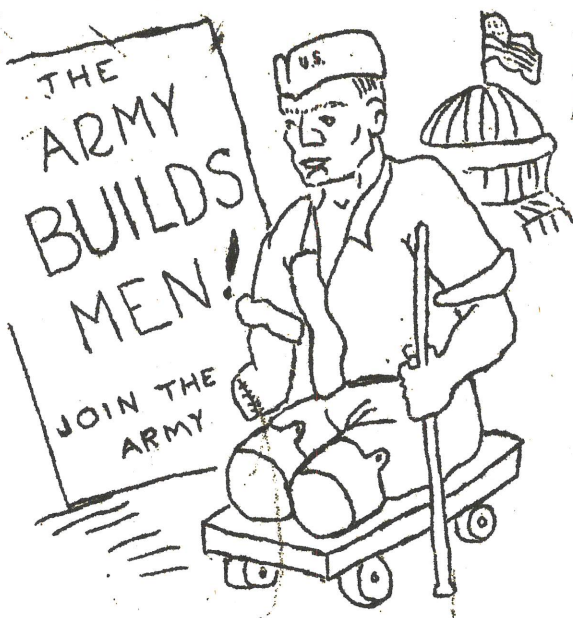
Are these being done for peace? Are tanks, machine guns, big berthas, submarines, and poison gas the symbols of peace, as the newspapers and politicians say? Do not be deceived! America is preparing for war and is going to enter it. We must recognize this truth.

The present war is an imperialist war. This means that it is a war of financial capital for markets. The wealthy, industrialists, and munitions makers are trying to prolong their decaying economy, a dying capitalist system, by means of mass murder. They want to redivide ownership of the world's market at

another's expense, even if they have to wipe out whole populations to do it.

The coming world war will make the last one seem like a Sunday-school picnic. Will the U.S. bankers gain by entering such a war? Most certainly! They, like other capitalists, will try to settle the unemployment problem by making battle-field fertilizer of the unemployed youth. Our ruling class has had its eye on the rich markets of Asia and the far east in particular for some years. This war will be an opportunity for

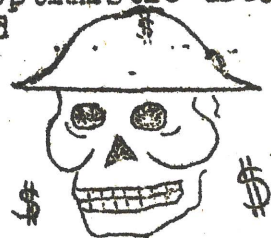
seizing it. The control of South American markets are not sufficient for the "Yankee Imperialists". The billionaires will become richer and fatter on the war. The poor will become poorer.



The imperialists may tell us that it is a war to save democracy, or the war to end all wars, or to save a small nation, just as they did in 1914-1918. What monstrous deception and hypocrisy that was. Everybody now knows that the Wall Street Bankers grew wealthier while thousands of young workers and students lay buried in France. English and French capitalists in the name of "liberty" and "freedom" gained the right to enslave and oppress five hundred million

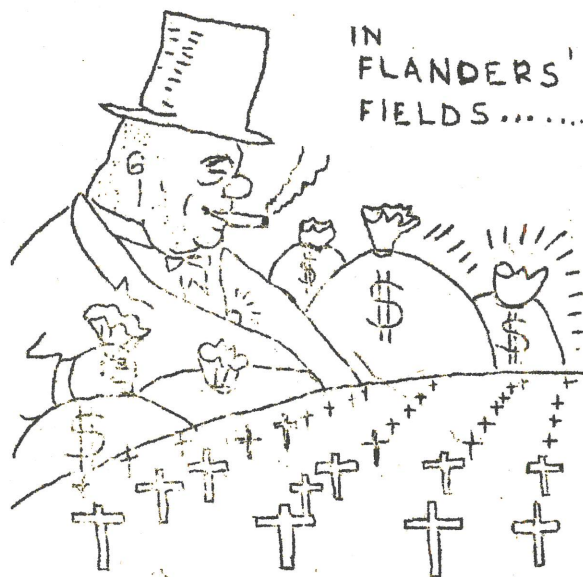
colonial people in order to extract bloody profit. The next war will bring with it a new barrage of lying war propaganda. Deception is necessary to lure people who have nothing to gain by war, into it. Unemployment and breadlines in America included plenty of returned soldiers who were maimed, crippled, or gassed. It is a fact that if those who cry the loudest for war, the J. P. Morgans, Rockefellers, Fords, DuPonts, Hearsts and McCormicks, were placed in front line trenches, there would be no war.

Not so long ago, most young people had optimistic dreams of going to school, stepping out in the world with a gilt-edge diploma to find a nice job awaiting them. Ten years of the great depression with 15,000,000 unemployed and 6,000,000 school graduates, who have never found work, have completely blasted these dreams.



Of 25,000,000 American Youth (ages 14-24), 11,000,000 are working full or part time, 8,000,000 attend school, leaving 6,000,000 unemployed, most of whom have never had jobs. Every year another half million leave school, without finding jobs, to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Youth is trapped in the capitalist crisis! Once out of school we begin to realize that schooling fits us for everything but life in capitalist society. We find that we can't eat our diplomas even if we boil them.

We read in the papers of murderers like Capone making millions while in prison; also of millionaires who are confined to insane asylums, yet their millions keep right on piling up. We read of leading citizens, university presidents, politicians, judges, and mayors, "pillars of Society", turning out to be nothing but swindlers, crooks, and gangster associates. All the talk of honesty, integrity taught us turns out to be nonsense in real life. Capitalism is a haven for thieves of every description who prey on the people. They eat off the flesh and throw the bones to us poor "boobs" who still believe in "Success" stories. These are the conditions we prolong when we fight in capitalist's interests.



We youth, young workers, farmers, students must attempt to stop the butchery and murder of the capitalist profit war before millions perish and cities are turned into shambles. Before we can do this intelligently we must be organized firmly and scientifically.

We need an organization so that we can shake our united fists in the faces of the capitalist war-makers. Such an organization is the Young Workers League, the only working class youth organization that is organized on a scientifically correct and thorough basis for combatting imperialist war. We say thorough and scientific because it goes to the roots of the problem, which is the capitalists greed for profits. We are an organization of youth who, from day to day, are actively opposing capitalist militarism and war by combatting the ruling class responsible for them. We struggle against American imperialism and the Wall Street economic royalists and politicians that want war to intensify capitalist exploitation and robbery at home and abroad. We, the members of the Y.W.L. seek to unite

youth regardless of race, color, religious or partisan affiliations into a solid mass against capitalist wars. We are international and interracial, maintaining connections over the world.

We young workers and students have no quarrel with our brothers in other parts of the world. Their lives are just as good as ours. They are our friends. That is why the Y.W.L. stands for fraternization in the trenches between opposing soldiers. We stand for international workers' solidarity. We point out that the real enemy is at home, the war profiteer, the banker, the monopolist, - in short "our own" ruling class. Capitalism is our mortal enemy, for capitalism breeds war. War is inevitable under this dog-eat-dog system of private property. As long as we have this system, just so long will there never be any peace on earth.



italist system where billions of dollars are accumulated and inherited by America's 60 Families, while millions of workers and their families are ill fed and raggedy, living in unsanitary conditions. Socialism will plan production of necessities for everybody and do away with the wasteful anaexhy of capitalism. That is why we stand for scientific socialism.

We are not pacifists who are all wars and will not fight against the capitalist system. That is one war we're in favor of. But we openly

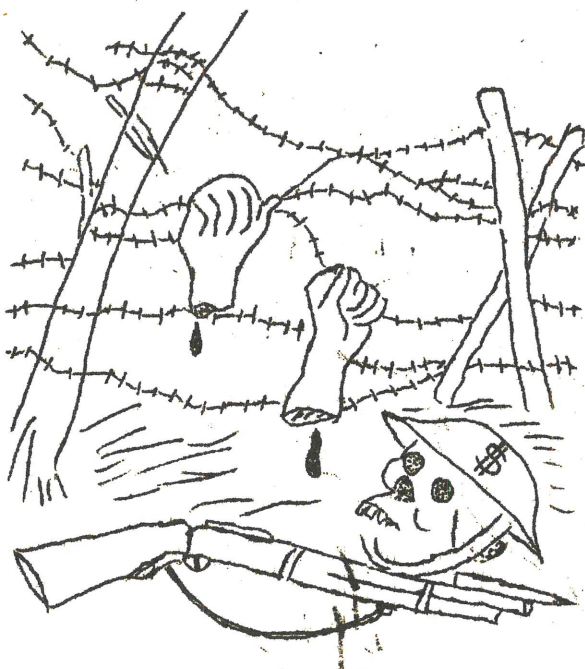
In this dark and grave period when the world capitalist system is tottering in convulsions, the Y.W.O. states that only socialism, only through the rule of the working class taking over industry, can bring lasting universal peace, once and for all bringing brotherhood and fraternity to mankind. Only socialism can put an end to the insane cap-

"WHEN
JOHNNY
COMES
MARCHING
HOME..
TRA-LA"



admit that the fight won't be easy. Our enemy is powerful. The capitalists control every instrument of propaganda; every weapon of confusion and terror lies in their hands. They control the newspapers, radio, movies, schools, politicians, police, jails, army and navy. But we are many and they are few. They cannot win if we are united against them.

The Young Workers League frankly admits that even tho we are organizing and growing stronger, the declaration of war may find us yet incapable of stopping the war. But this does not stop our fight against the bankers. We will continue this fight at home in the shops and factories and at the front lines. We will spread our message to all, never ceasing for a moment the struggle against our enemy, until the working class overthrows the capitalist system and its institutions to put an end to the war. This idea is very logical and clear when one can understand that if "his own" gang of capitalist robbers win the war or some foreign gang wins, no matter which, he, the soldier loses. This means too, that we stand for the military defeat of our own imperialists even if it momentarily means the victory of the enemy imperialists. This can be carried out on a working class basis and is an effective way of obtaining peace.



Ambitious, big-chested, optimistic youth tries to look on the brighter side of life. So do we. Despite the evils of capitalism, poverty, increasing crime, demoralizing unemployment, insecurity, war, the future still belongs to the youth. With real leadership the youth can be won over to fight for a new better, happier world. The Young Workers League can give that leadership.

We wish also to state that the Y.W.L. has absolutely nothing in common with such youth organizations as the Young Peoples' Socialist Leagues or Young Communist League. The YBSL has viciously misled and betrayed the hopes of youth by supporting pro-war organizations as the so-called Labor Party. The Y.C.L., despite its name, is not communist. It is a fake outfit with the butcher Stalin at its head. These both pose as youth leaders but are in reality enemies of the youth.

The way to fight against capitalist wars is to expose the war schemes of the bankers, struggle against militarism, agitate against war and the system that breeds it and to organize for its removal. Our job is to educate the future soldiers and point out the real nature and cause of war. If we must fight, let us fight in our own cause, like realists.

STUDENTS - YOUNG WORKERS -

We need your help and support. Fill out the following blank. If possible visit your nearest Y.W.L. office or representative or write to the national office. Build a Y.W.L. unit in your school, organization or vicinity. Subscribe to our grand youth paper, the YOUNG WORKER. It is chock full of items of interest to serious young people. Help in the fight. The road to freedom lies in breaking the chains that bind us. Young America - Awaken!

NOT A CENT, NOT A GUN, NOT A MAN FOR IMPERIALIST WAR!
NO MILITARISATION AND REGIMENTATION OF YOUTH IN SCHOOLS AND
FACTORIES!

NO BLACKOUT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES!
AGAINST CAPITALIST WAR - FOR WAR AGAINST THE CAPITALISTS!
TURN THE IMPERIALIST WAR INTO A CIVIL WAR!

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE

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YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE
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Chicago, Illinois

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☐ Please give me more information about the Y.W.L.

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Subscription to YOUNG WORKER - 50 cents per year.

HOLLYWOOD - TOOL OF CAPITALISM

In the past the Young Worker in its movie reviews has pointed out how the boss class has made use of the motion picture industry for glorifying the various American armed forces. This, we pointed out, was in line with the tremendous amount of propaganda that is being spread in preparation for war. In general the pictures in the past such as "Dawn Patrol", "Submarine D-1", "Brother Rat", etc. have a certain type of military significance. They usually dealt with the internal organization of the navy, the army, the airforce, or the marine corps. The purpose: to glorify the American flag in America, rave about our internal democracy. There was usually very little propaganda included as to another "enemy" power. The manoeuvre of the various arms of the military machines were pictured merely as manoeuvres, involving no actual warfare with another country. However, of late we have noted a different type of military picture being turned out by the lackeys of the American boss class. In the newer pictures like "The Real Glory" with Gary Cooper and "Barricade" with Warner Baxter, the boys in the uniform carry the flag a long distance away from home.

In "The Real Glory" the sweet kindness of the marines in cleansing the Philippine Islands of the big bad native savages in order to protect the peaceful and civilized natives until such time as they can train a military force to protect themselves against their bad brother natives. To one who has made a careful study of movie propaganda, the purpose behind this picture of the glory of the flag among the Filipinos is obvious. First American Imperialism in the very near future is going to embark upon a war to gather new colonies for exploitation. The American people are therefore given the impression that American rule is wonderful for the natives. Secondly, there is constant movement in the Philippines on the part of the natives there for independence. On paper American Imperialism has promised them independence in a few years. This is on paper. Actually new fortifications are being built there and a conscript army is being raised. The U.S. Imperialists have absolutely no intention of granting the Filipinos independence. And when the moment of struggle arrives between the forces for Yankee imperialism enslavement and national liberation, the movie-goers of America will have a picture of the savage and barbaric natives there who are resisting the wonderful rule of America.

Concerning the picture "Barricade" we see a similar angle. On the surface the romantic adventures of Alice Faye and Warner Baxter seems like a harmless enough story even if it happens to be in the midst of the war in China. But hidden beneath the lovey-dovey stuff are a number of important facts in line with the present plans of Wall Street in China. First, and primary for the imperialists, is the fact that the American consulate and American property in China must remain untampered with and unharmed. The well-able actor,

HOLLYWOOD -- TOOL OF CAPITALISM (Cont.)

Charles Winniger is pictured as the indignant Consul in a remote Chinese village who almost has an epileptic fit upon discovering that "Chinese bandits" have fired on the American flag as he went to rescue some poor unfortunate marooned missionaries. Later he almost breaks into tears when the "bandits" fire on the actual property of the American government in China. To the rescue come the orderly and well-disciplined soldiers of the Chinese Nationalist Army who capture the big bad bandits and save the day. (The picture does not show how the "bandits" are executed on the spot." It is no secret that Wall Street supports the Chiang Kai Chek Nationalist Army not only against their Japanese rivals but against the spontaneously-organized bands of peasants who see their enemy at home as well as those who came to invade. These peasant bands are pictured as bandits. Tomorrow when Chiang Kai Chek begins to slaughter the Chinese people themselves in the scores of thousands as he did in 1927 to smash the Chinese revolution, we will hear the hoorays of Wall Street and their Hollywood agents. Today the propaganda is prepared. The American people are being prepared. Intervention in China, in all of Asia, is the future plan of Wall Street. And back to the good old days for the slogans "THE MARINES ARE COMING; TELL IT TO THE MARINES" have the Hollywood producers travelled.

We want to see no worker taken in by this propaganda. The American youth must not swallow the hocus-pocus of Hollywood. We must once and for always understand that the motion picture industry is nothing else but a stooge for the American boss class.

PACIFIST ANTI-WAR CONGRESS (con'.)

talist system without destroying capitalism.

The Socialists, who gave the political content to the conference, saw to it that sympathy was extended to the Finnish capitalist class, at the same time slandering and attacking the idea of a workers' government. They repeated lies of capitalist-owned press by saying Communism and Fascism are the same.

When the conference attacked Socialism and Communism, they threw away any possibility of combatting imperialist capitalist war. They restricted themselves to a few slogans as -- "Enlist for peace, or be drafted", and "Jobs at home, not death-abroad." Then they sang the song:

"We don't want to march in the infantry,
Shoot in the artillery, Ride in the cavalry,
Drop bombs over Germany,
We're in the peace army now!"

Many pacifists used the conference as a chance to shoot their traps off; religious fanatics to pound their Bibles, while the Socialists sat smiling in approval, in between making attacks on the revolutionary working class movement. They voted to continue the Youth

HOW TRUE

You Johnny! You Jimmy! You Slim! and Joe! Ain't you got nothin' to do? You sit in poolrooms, candy stores, Recreation centers doing nothing. Maybe you play pool if you got enough dough to pay for the game. Maybe you sit in the candy stores if you've bummed a couple of nickels to play the slot machine. Maybe you're sitting in a Recreation center wondering where the hell the next meal is coming from. Or maybe you're just riding in a freight car going noplase. Why? Why? Don't you wonder, why? Well I'm not so terribly smart but I think I know.

Here we are young, alive, at the point of life where we are ambitious, want to love, can work but all we do is just sit. Our fathers and mothers, social workers, school teachers say we're lazy and don't want to work. Jeez! What a laugh! Why some of us never worked a day in our lives. We got the maximum amount of education they would give us and then kicked us out on our ears into a world of unemployment. Yep, we did the traditional thing, all of us. Pounded the pavement, from factory to factory, from store to store, spoke maybe to some guy who called himself the Personell Manager, who asked us a lot of questions and looked at us down his nose, giving us the once over and at first we tried to hide our worn out shoes by pulling them in back of our chairs and wished like h--- that the patch on our knee was the same color as our suits, but pretty soon we got used to it because we kinda knew it didn't make any difference, because this guy didn't have a job for us anyway. What a joke! We gotter beg these guys to give us jobs, to sweat us, tear our guts out so that they can make profit, and they haven't even got the jobs. Boy, what a life!

Jeez, let us sit down and think a minute, look at Pop with his knotted hands, bent back, without teeth (because he can't buy plates). He could get a job when he was a kid. He worked and sweated to feed himself and the family and look where he is now, on home relief! There's something wrong here -- why didn't Pop get rich like Morgan and Rockefeller? Didn't he save money? Yeh, he did -- what he and Mom could save out of the food money, or by not buying somebody a pair of shoes. Well, where is all his money -- why didn't he buy a factory and make millions? Well, when the bank closed he lost \$1,600. Hey, wait a minute, after working nearly twenty-three years only \$1,600! Say there is more than appears on the surface of this thing. I ain't got a job. Pop after stinting and scraping for twenty-three years loses \$1,600 in the bank when it folds up. He lives on Relief now and I, young and strong, can't get a job. Something is screwy here.

They taught me in school anybody can be rich like Rockefeller and Morgan if he worked hard enough and saved. Well, Pop he worked hard, he saved, he didn't drink his money, and now he's on home Relief. Say, I think those teachers were lying, fakes, it ain't true.

HOW TRUE (Cont.)

Pop made a hell of a lot of steel castings, thousands of them, but he never got more than seven dollars a day, Jeez, seven dollars! And he only got that after a big strike where he near got his head knocked off by a company guard. And after twenty-three years, he's too old, he can't work fast enough. Well, what about a pension? He has to work thirty years to be pensioned! But they said he was too old after working twenty-three years! Now he's on relief and I'm beginning to wonder what this is all about; he's too old and I can't get work because they don't need me.

But a funny thing happened the other day, a guy in a good-looking army uniform came up to me, talked real nice, took me in a beer joint and bought me a couple of beers. He told me how swell it was to be in the army -- how good you ate, what swell gals you could get, and you could get to see the world and everything. And when I asked him what the hell he was doing in a beer joint here in this lousy town, he told me he was scheduled for recruit duty.

Then I began to see things. This guy wanted me to join the army. He gave me a line about defending my country against what he called furrine invaders. I looks at him and says I don't see any Chinks or Japs invading us and why the hell should I go and shoot some Dutchman or Russo or Wop that I never seen, he ain't done me anything. He tries to cover up by singing about how swell the army treats a guy. Well, I heard different from guys who served, who tell about being delouzed after a three week army maneuvre, how they marched thirty hours at a stretch and got about four hours' sleep a night. That, I tells him don't sould so hot to me. Well, you should have seen that guy. He was fit to be tied! He starts calling me draft dodger, Red, unpatriotic, and a lot of stuff. Well, I waited till he cools down, looks at him good, I spits on the floor and walks out. The beer was good.

When Pop made those castings, he used to boast he could make 700 a day. That means he got payed when everything was good \$7.00 a day. Those castings must have been worth about half a buck a piece. Who got the rest of it? Not Pop! Comes the dawn, the boss got it and Pop sweated to make them dog-gone things and got seven bucks a day for doing it. Well he was getting older and more knotted. The boss didn't get knotted but Pop told me he, the boss, came through the factory dressed like a million bucks, his hair all slicked up and a paunch on him as big as a bathtub. What I get is now Pop was getting old and knotted from slaving and this guy was getting paunchy from too much. This big fat palooka wasn't laid off because he was too old, I read in the paper the other day that he and his wife was down in Florida during the winter. Why, the son-of-a-----, Pop is on home Relief. I can't get a job because this bloak shut down part of his factory because he wasn't making enough dough.

Now they want me to go over to kill some Dutchmen because they wanna keep their big bellies and Florida vacations. To hell with them! Not me!

HOW TRUE (Cont.)

I get it now, there is nothing wrong with Pop and me. Pop has worked, I wanta work, but we're in the same boat, we both ain't got nothing because some guy has to have vacations in Florida. Come to think of it me and Pop ain't the only ones, look at the other guys around us, they're all in the same place. We gotta do something about this and do something quick. I'm going to talk to the other fellows and maybe we'll figure something out.

Gosh, I just thought of somethin'. There's Jim down the street. He's always spieeling about workers unite and fight! I usta think he was bugs, but now I remember a lot of things he was talking about, Workers Control of Production for Use not Profit -- he said some-thing about that once. Workers Control -- let's see, that must mean no bosses! Production for Use, that must mean that the workers like Pop would be able to use the things he makes and other guys make. Not Profit -- no Florida vacations for big bellied bosses. Hell, that sounds OKay with me. Maybe that means that guys like me won't have to sit around twisting our thumbs, maybe we can work out OKay in this here scheme.

I'm going to talk to the boys and then I'm going to get them to talk to this Jim Guy. He ain't so dumb!

THE RED FEAST (Cont.)

In peace they starve you to your loathsome toil,
In war they drive you to the teeth of Death;
And when your life-blood soaks into their soil
They give you lies to choke your dying breath.

So will they smite your blind eyes until you see,
And lash your naked backs until you know
That wasted blood can never set you free
From fettered thralldom to the Common Foe.

Then you will find that "nation" is a name
And boundaries are things that don't exist;
That Labor's bondage, world-wide, is the same,
And ONE the enemy it must resist.

[illegible]

STOP! ————— LOOK!

Watch for the announcement of the Young Worker subscription campaign in our next issue.

Valuable prizes to both subscribers and subscription sellers.
Complete details in the next issue.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM

(Editor's Note: This article is the first of a series of articles which we are going to carry for the education of young workers.)

At some time in the life of every young worker, farmer, and student, he comes across the word socialism. For the young people of America and of the world for that matter, it is a very important word. Certainly if the source of your information is the capitalist owned daily press or magazines, you will never know what socialism is. More than anything else they are interested in keeping the truth about socialism from us. They lie so much that if we were to take their say-so they would have us believing that socialism is everything from a kind of cheese to a red herring. But we would be fools to expect anything else from them. The reason is so obvious. They know that if the robbed and cheated workers would understand clearly what socialism has to offer them, compared to this filthy rotten capitalist system, it will mean the end of their luxury and parasitic existence.

Under this capitalist system we see how the idle rich grow richer and the workers get poorer. We see how the growth of wealth on the one hand creates more poverty and misery on the other.

Under capitalism labor saving machinery constantly throws thousands of workers out on the streets to starve. Education is being cut, unemployment is increasing. Workers who dare to protest or strike against the low wages or speed up on their jobs are beaten, shot, or jailed. Children toil for a few pennies a day so that capitalists can save on labor costs. Sharecroppers by the thousands roam the country, starving. Crime, prostitution, and sickness infest capitalism like incurable cancers. And to top it all -- wars, horrible and murderous capitalist wars for profits, kill off the best and healthiest specimens of our youth. As for the future one can only say that the youth of today under capitalism are locked out of any opportunity for being successful. There is no future for them but wars and misery. If they live through one war, they'll surely be caught in the next.

The reason the capitalists and bankers can live like kings on the blood of the workers is that they own the factories, machinery, railroads, shops, mines and mills. In a socialist world all these forms of wealth would belong to the workers who would take them over and run them for the benefit of all mankind. The workers would take labor saving machinery and use it to cut down the hours of the working day. There would be plenty of food, clothing, homes and pleasures of the best for everybody. There would be no more production for the profit of a single individual. Wasted labor like advertising and selling would be abolished. Child labor would be

WHAT IS SOCIALISM? (Cont.)

abolished and free education guaranteed to all. The aged, blind and crippled would be provided for and every worker upon reaching a certain age could be sure of retiring on a life pension sufficient for their comfort. The best hospitalization and medical attention will be free to all. Socialism would do away with the overproduction and destruction of food and clothing because it does away with monopoly capitalists and the competition which leads to crises and depressions. Where the workers are their own masters there will be no more wars, because workers have no quarrels with workers of other lands. Overalls will shake hands across the seas with all other overalls. Workers can live in the newest and best of air-conditioned homes. With industries running short shifts working labor saving machinery there will be jobs for all and equal opportunities. All work be a push button and lever system.

Under socialism there will be no idle rich, no suffering poor, but a classless society in which all will participate in the work of production made light by ever improving inventions and machinery and in the enjoyment of luxurious life so easily possible. Science, development, progress, education will be encouraged for every advance means easier living. What was once a dream has now become a living reality.

What sense is there then in continuing capitalism, creating poverty for millions by destroying food and clothing for which people die? Or, why should profits accumulate for a few bloated exploiters by a scarcity, intentionally planned, to raise prices, and still further lash the backs of the poor by sales taxes and hidden taxes to pay for the destruction?

One might say that these things are all true, but isn't it a fact that we need some kind of rulers or government? We've always had them, and, under socialism we'll still need "someone to run things." To this we say, that with workers working only two hours or so a day they will have plenty time to participate in committees to plan the amount of production and distribution. These workers can be trained and educated to perform these tasks. Capitalist politicians are useless parasites in the world today. In the long run it's the oppressed workers who are forced to pay these capitalist mouth-pieces their fat salaries for doing nothing.

Taken all around, there's a world of difference between capitalism of the big industrialists and bankers and workers' socialism. No wonder the bosses hate socialism so much, because the workers will put the lazy, loafing parasites in overalls and make them go to work when the whistle blows, just like everyone else.

PACIFIST ANTI-WAR CONGRESS (Concluded)

Anti-War Congress and made plans for growth. Inasmuch as they will spread their poisonous illusions among the American Youth, they must be fought as misleaders.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

EDITOR YOUNG WORKER

Dear Mr. Jensen:

I'm taking this opportunity to write you about your paper, the Young Worker. First, your paper was wished on me against my will. I once knew a member of yours and he paid for a subscription for me. I receive it (when it does come out) although my parents object to my reading it. I see the mailman before my mother does while I go to work mornings. So I have to take it to work with me. Otherwise, my mother will destroy it like she once did. Well, as long as I get it, I read it. I showed it to some fellows at work once and nobody could understand the language you write in. Their conclusion was that Reds are screwballs. Sometimes I can't understand it myself. Why can't you be more simple? You asked for correspondence from readers so here it is.

Glen Frankvander
Wilmette, Ill.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dear Glen:

We heartily welcome your honest opinions about the Young Worker. You should have written us before. However your troubles will soon be over. We have brought the level down to where any high school youth can grasp it. We have been thinking of this very point ourselves.

* * * *

Dear Comrade Editor:

I read your article on militarism and was very enthusiastic over it. It was splendid. I live near a National Guard Armory and I know a few of the guardsmen from my neighborhood. I'm going to pass it out to them to read. Let's have more such articles.

R. S.

* * * *

EDITOR - YOUNG WORKER

Dear Comrade:

How come we don't have anything from the Young Workers League publication on the Russian-Finnish War? Up here in Detroit there are thousands of Finnish workers and as many youth. These youth work in the auto plants, although a good part of them are unemployed. Some don't know what to make of the situation while a great number are inclined to support the Finnish capitalists in this war. I have

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS (Cont.)

many contacts and we must have some article. I am Finnish myself and even in my own family there is fights, so you have some idea.

P. Katamaiki
Detroit, Mich.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are preparing for our next issue a thorough analysis on the Finnish war. We have been delaying many items until we reorganized our secretarial and editing staffs.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

In answer to your appeal for young worker correspondence, I'm submitting this letter. I am not a member of the Young Workers League yet but hope to be as soon as I can get settled. I have moved from Zeigler, Illinois over to Gillespie. If ever there was a fertile field for organizing, it's in Southern Illinois coal country. How about some articles for the benefit of the young coal miners? They do not have much education, especially the girls. The first time I showed some of them a copy, I had to read most of it to them myself. Can I expect to have something about coal mining? They are interested in the war question too. It is easy to talk to unemployed boys, but the girls don't seem to be interested.

A. H. D.

* * * * *

Comrade:

At the Chicago Teachers College where I am a student, a very significant change has been taking place. The school faculty and administration are seeing to it that the overwhelming majority of new students coming in are Catholics. The College is free, run by the city, whose mayor is a strong Catholic as well as a majority of the aldermen. They reason that those students who today are in the clutches of the Catholic Church will make teachers in the future who are "safe" for capitalism. They are inviting all the Catholic high schools to send as many reactionary students as possible. When these people will be teachers they will spread their reactionary ideas to all the small children. This shows how carefully capitalism watches over its educators.

A.T.

NOTE: These are some of the letters that have come in as a result of our appeal for correspondence from our readers. How about you writing on conditions in your neighborhood, school, shop or Y.W.L. unit. This column is open to our readers for any comment, criticism, or suggestion.

EDITOR

WAR HORRORS

PRIVATE JEFF COOK

November 4, 1917, was the sixth night in the front line trenches for Private Jeff Cook of Company G, 16th Infantry. It was a dark, cold night, just like the previous five nights that Jeff Cook had been on sentry duty. From 4:45 in the morning, with two hours on and one hour off, he had to stay at the sentry post and keep continually looking into the blackness of "No-Man's-Land".

On his sixth day there was the of fire-wood to in the dug-out. the roar of battle, sentry duty, Jeff that he just couldn't.



night he was partially sleepy. He had had since he came to trench. During the constant chopping keep from freezing. Due to this noise, and the strain of Cook was so sleepy not keep awake that

He was leaning against the trench at the sentry post, his head resting on his arm, asleep. Lying on the parapet within easy reach was his rifle.

No sooner had he fallen asleep than Corporal Walenic came along the trench on a tour of inspection. Seeing Cook asleep, he quietly approached him, and, without awakening him, removed Cook's rifle from the parapet. As he left the sentry post with the rifle, he left word with another soldier to tell Cook to report to him for the rifle when he awoke.

Ten days after this incident, Private Jeff Cook was put under arrest. Many more soldiers were falling asleep because of lack of rest and sleep. The officers decided that an example must be made of one of the enlisted men so that the rest of the men would be afraid and would stay awake no matter how tired or sleepy they were.

Jeff Cook was court-martialed, charged with sleeping at his post, and even though he explained how impossible it was to sleep in the dug-out during the daytime, he was found guilty. And for this terrible crime Private Jeff Cook was SENTENCED TO BE SHOT.

So anxious were the officers to set an example that all of them from the captain and colonel of the 16th Infantry to General Pershing himself, endorsed the death verdict saying:

"It is absolutely necessary for the morale and discipline of the army that this death sentence be carried out."

But Private Jeff Cook, age 18, escaped this sentence. He was blown to bits at the front, "Killed in action."

